

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending October 28, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**High Winds Through the Lower Yakima Valley Caused Fruit Drop Damage
Rain Showers Delayed General Fall Activities Across the State**

FIELD CROPS

Precipitation received last week improved winter wheat emergence conditions. Dry bean harvest was completed. Potato, carrot, onion, pumpkin, squash, and sweet corn harvests continued slowly last week due to scattered rain showers. Corn mazes and U-Pick pumpkin patches received good business despite gloomy weather. Christmas tree and holly growers began harvesting boughs for the holiday season. Turfgrass mowing was delayed by rain saturated fields.

LIVESTOCK

Rain showers soaked pastures on the westside of the state. Precipitation received last week improved forage fields across Washington. Cattle herds were feeding on crop residue in some areas. Hay and silage harvests were completed last week. Range and pasture conditions were 15% very poor, 60% poor, 20% fair, and 5% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

High winds through the lower Yakima Valley resulted in some fruit drop damage. Red Delicious, Granny Smith, and Braeburn apples, and Asian pear harvests were nearly completed. Fuji and Pink Lady apple harvests continued. Wine grape harvests tapered with reports of excellent quality. Concord grape harvest was completed last week with less than average yields. Cranberry harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
4.8	6.0

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	10	55	35	-
Subsoil	15	60	25	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	5	5	90	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	99	98	100	98
Winter Wheat Emerged	91	87	97	92
Potatoes Harvested	96	90	94	95
Dry Beans Harvested	100	99	100	100
Corn Harvested for Grain	25	14	29	33

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat	3	10	60	27	-
Corn	-	-	5	95	-
Potatoes	-	-	10	90	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: Fall weather conditions were normal. Almost all of the fall harvest was complete. There were no reports of crop problems.

Gray's Harbor: Blustery winds and heavy rains pelted the soils of Grays Harbor County throughout the week, as a major fall storm moved through the county. In many instances, soils in low lying fields quickly became saturated with more than two inches of rainfall. It was speculated that even the local moles were grabbing galoshes and raincoats. Ag producers were limited to inside chores, including equipment repair and winterization. Potato growers were busy sorting and grading this year's crop. Christmas tree growers were busy harvesting Noble fir boughs for the holiday season. Bough prices appeared to have stabilized at .30 cents per pound. Newly seeded pastures germinated quickly under nearly ideal conditions for seed germination. Local rivers and small creeks were boasting record numbers of Chum salmon and other species, including Coho and Chinook, as they migrated upstream to spawn. The remaining leaves of big leaf maple continued to illuminate the rural landscape with their hues of yellow and gold.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were a little below normal for this time of the year. There has been more rain during October than typically seen in

the past few years. Some rot was showing up on crops that lay on the ground. Otherwise, no reports of crop damage were received due to the weather. Pastures looked good.

Snohomish/North King: The weather condition was windy, rainy and temperatures were slightly below normal. Corn silage harvest was complete with most yields better than last year. Corn mazes and pumpkin patches were very busy, even with the cool, wet, fall weather.

Thurston: Copious amounts of rain throughout the week limited the majority of agricultural activity to inside chores. Most soils were saturated with rain accumulations exceeding 2 inches in some parts of the county. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued to attract large numbers of customers who were in pursuit of the perfect Halloween Jack-O-Lantern. Turfgrass growers fell behind on mowing due to wet field conditions. Christmas tree growers were confirming trucking schedules for the upcoming harvest. Holly growers were cutting boughs and making wreaths.

Whatcom: Apple harvest continued. Some rain was received which got in the way of harvest. No new crop losses were reported for the week.

CENTRAL

Benton: High winds blew some apples on the ground, but harvest was about complete. Concord grape harvest was complete with crop yields less than average. The wine grape harvest was nearly complete. Wineries were reporting excellent quality. Soil moisture remained low.

Grant: Fuji apple harvest was underway. Fall fumigation continued. Carrot harvest continued. Irrigated wheat planting continued. Potato harvest was nearly complete. Cattle were moving into fields to clean the aftermath of feed. The last cutting of alfalfa hay was being baled.

Kittitas: Apple harvest has been completed, with average yields being obtained. Potato harvest was concluded with average yields being obtained. Range and pasture conditions were poor, but recent rains

have helped improve conditions a little.

Yakima: The past week brought several frosts and a couple of days of heavy winds. The winds resulted in some fruit drop for a few producers. Harvest of Red Delicious, Granny Smith, and Braeburn apples was nearly complete. Harvesting of Fuji apples and Pink Lady apples continued.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 1 degree above normal, with a trace of precipitation on October 27. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

EASTERN

Whitman: Additional rainfall came during the week and was beneficial across the county. The emergence of winter wheat was hampered in many cases by crusted soil conditions that followed previous rain showers and high wind. These conditions have

changed with the most recent precipitation and should favor emergence on the remaining crop acreage.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

October 29, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	30	59	47	-2	4	-3	0	0	2.14	1.24	5	5.76	0.84	117	21
Everett	34	59	48	-2	8	1	0	0	1.96	1.15	6	4.48	-0.36	93	24
Hoquiam	35	56	49	-4	7	-14	0	0	1.84	0.15	5	5.13	-3.51	59	20
Kelso	37	61	49	-2	8	-6	0	0	1.13	0.09	5	3.59	-2.08	63	17
Olympia	36	60	48	1	4	1	0	0	1.13	-0.09	3	3.01	-2.95	51	15
Seattle-Tacoma	32	57	48	-4	6	-8	0	0	1.57	0.67	6	2.96	-1.71	63	21
Shelton	31	57	47	-3	2	-9	0	0	3.98	2.43	6	6.85	-0.53	93	20
Tacoma	32	61	48	-2	5	-3	0	0	0.44	-0.47	3	0.81	-3.94	17	10
Vancouver	39	63	51	2	15	4	0	0	1.06	0.20	4	2.73	-2.01	58	16
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	17	57	42	-3	0	0	0	0	0.14	0.00	2	0.38	-0.58	40	6
Omak	26	61	44	2	1	1	0	0	0.21	-0.02	3	0.60	-0.97	38	6
Stampede Pass	24	43	34	-4	0	0	0	0	5.95	4.11	5	14.27	5.25	158	25
Wenatchee	30	56	45	-3	0	-6	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	0.09	-0.69	12	2
Yakima AP	23	60	45	-3	0	-6	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	0.18	-0.63	22	3
NORTHEAST															
Colville	25	58	43	1	0	0	0	0	0.44	0.08	4	1.52	-0.68	69	11
Deer Park	26	58	42	-2	0	0	0	0	0.65	0.33	5	2.30	0.49	127	16
Spokane AP	29	62	44	-1	0	0	0	0	0.38	0.09	5	1.37	-0.20	87	14
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	27	57	46	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.06	-0.08	2	0.28	-0.46	38	5
Moses Lake	23	58	46	-3	1	-6	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	0.12	-0.62	16	5
Quincy	29	56	45	-2	0	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.09	-0.74	11	3
Ritzville	29	62	44	-2	1	1	0	0	0.30	0.08	3	0.59	-0.65	48	7
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	31	63	49	-3	7	-13	0	0	0.01	-0.12	1	0.21	-0.48	30	4
Pasco	30	65	51	2	16	2	0	0	0.07	-0.07	1	0.28	-0.52	35	3
Pullman	32	63	45	0	4	-1	0	0	0.53	0.14	3	1.88	-0.34	85	10
Walla Walla AP	37	62	50	-1	6	-12	0	0	0.77	0.34	3	2.18	-0.11	95	11
Whitman Mission	31	65	49	2	6	-1	0	0	0.83	0.55	3	1.83	0.26	117	9
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	34	54	44	-4	0	-4	0	0	0.92	0.47	5	2.26	-0.31	88	18
Lewiston ID	40	67	50	1	8	-4	0	0	0.58	0.37	3	1.43	-0.16	90	11

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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